

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR

SUBJECT: CBS STORY RE ALLEGED US MILITARY KNOWLEDGE OF ANTI-ALLENDE
COUP AND POSSIBLE ENCOURAGEMENT THEREOF

1. OUR IO HAS JUST LEARNED FROM FRANK MANITZAS (CBS) THAT LATTER HAD CONVERSATION SEPT 22 WITH COL. GERALD SILLS, USA, ACCOMPANYING MAJOR GENERAL MABRY ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHILE. IN COURSE CONVERSATION, ACCORDING TO MANITZAS, SILLS STATED THAT AT LEAST ONE YEAR BEFORE COUP, US ARMY INTELLIGENCE WAS AWARE THAT IT WAS BEING PLANNED. SILLS FURTHER SAID THAT HE TOLD GENERAL PINOCHET IN FEB 1973 "YOU'RE ON A SINKING SHIP: WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ACT?" PINOCHET REPLIED: "WHEN OUR LEGS GET WET," EXPLAINING THAT CHILEAN MILITARY HAD TO WAIT UNTIL THERE WAS SUFFICIENT POPULAR SUPPORT. SILLS THEN WENT ON TO STATE RESULTS WERE NOT SO BAD AS IN INDONESIA, WHERE 350,000 HAD HAD TO BE KILLED. ALL FOREGOING#

2. COL. SILLS HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING HIS CONVERSATION WITH MANITZAS. CONVERSATION CAME ABOUT AFTER MANITZAS HAD NOTICED GEN. MABRY ENTERING LOBBY OF HOTEL. SUBSEQUENTLY MANITZAS CASUALLY INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS BEING FROM
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CBS AND ASKED COL. SILLS IF THE GENERAL WAS ON AN

INSPECTION TOUR. THE ANSWER WAS "NO, JUST A VISIT."
NO SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION WAS VOLUNTEERED. MANITZAS
THEN ASKED COL. SILLS WHAT HIS IMPRESSIONS WERE ABOUT
THINGS IN CHILE. THE ANSWER WAS THAT COL. SILLS WAS
MOST IMPRESSED BY THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING, THAT
PEOPLE SEEMED ENTHUSIASTIC, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT
SEEMED TO BE HARD WORKING, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD APPARENTLY
BEEN RELUCTANT TO TAKE OVER. THERE FOLLOWED THE ONLY
ACCURATE PORTION OF THIS STORY, WHICH IS THAT PERTAINING
TO GEN. PINOCHET'S STATEMENT, MADE IN THE CONTEXT THAT
THE CHILEAN ARMY WAS DOING EVERYTHING IT COULD TO
AVOID ANY ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY AT THIS TIME. THE
COMMENT ON INDONESIA WAS MENTIONED IN THE CONTEXT THAT
THE SEVERAL THOUSAND CASUALTIES THAT RESULTED IN THE
CHILEAN COUP COULD IN NO WAY BE COMPARED TO THE
APPROXIMATELY 350,000 INDONESIAN CASUALTIES SUFFERED
IN THAT COUP. IN NO WAY WERE ANY STATEMENTS MADE WHICH
COULD HAVE IMPLIED THAT "AT LEAST ONE YEAR BEFORE THE
COUP THE US ARMY INTELLIGENCE WAS AWARE IT WAS BEING PLANNED."

3. BASED ON FOREGOING, IF PRESS QUESTIONS ARE ASKED
AT DOD OR STATE, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER A DENIAL
THAT THIS LAST STATEMENT WAS EVER MADE.
POPPER

NOTE BY OCT: SANTIAGO 5262 #APPARENT OMISSION.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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